

Onassis-Galella Trial Is Ended; Contempt Issue May Stall Ruling

By EDWARD HUDSON

A five-week trial involving counter-suits by Mrs. Aristotle Onassis and Ronald E. Galella, a freelance photographer, came to an end yesterday.

As it did, a lawyer for Mrs. Onassis obtained an order requiring Mr. Galella to show cause why he should not be cited for civil contempt for his testimony.

The order was signed by Federal District Judge Irving Ben Cooper, who presided at the trial. Judge Cooper set April 3 as the date for Mr. Galella to respond. The judge said he might delay a decision in the entire case until the contempt issue was resolved.

Mrs. Onassis is seeking a permanent injunction to keep the photographer 200 yards from her Fifth Avenue apartment and 100 yards from her person elsewhere.

Secret Service Involved

The photographer is claiming \$1.3-million in damages from Mrs. Onassis for alleged assault, false arrest, malicious prosecution and interference with his livelihood.

The Federal Government is seeking to enjoin Mr. Galella from interfering with the Secret Service's duty to protect John and Caroline Kennedy, Mrs. Onassis's children.

Mrs. Onassis, who has been present in the courtroom during most days of the trial, was absent again yesterday, as she was Wednesday afternoon.

In applying for the show-cause order, Martin London, one of her attorneys, said there

were two grounds for such a citation.

Mr. London contended that Mr. Galella's testimony had proved that "he or his agent" approached within eight or 10 feet of Mrs. Onassis to photograph her on Jan. 9 at the El Morocco nightclub.

2d Contention Cited

Judge Cooper had signed a temporary restraining order last Dec. 2, barring the photographer from approaching within 100 yards of Mrs. Onassis' apartment or 50 yards of her person to take pictures.

Mrs. Onassis's attorney said that the second basis for the contempt move was Mr. Galella's alleged failure to produce a subpoenaed document of photographic prints until several days after the trial began.

Mr. Galella's attorney, Alfred S. Julien, argued that it was too late, after each side had rested its case, to move for a contempt citation. He moved that Judge Cooper decide there had been a mistrial. That motion was denied.

The principal witness was Brian Keller, a Secret Service agent assigned to protect the Kennedy children.

Mr. Keller testified yesterday that Mr. Galella behaved differently from other photographers in that he "rushes toward" the children, "gets closer" to them, "jumps up and down" in front of them and "never listens to what we say."

Mr. Keller said Mr. Galella's behavior during picture taking made the job of protecting the children more difficult.